

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment accompanies a concurrently filed Request For Continued Examination. The RCE requests entry of the Amendment After Final Rejection which was mailed May 26, 2004. This Supplemental Amendment further amends the claims primarily for formal reasons. Support for "verification tests" in claim 107 is found in the Application as filed, see for example the published Application, page 35, the third line from the bottom.

Claims 100-139 are active in this Application as having been elected in responding to a restriction requirement and are all submitted to be in allowable condition.

Claims 29-47, 49-82, 84-99, 140-158, and 160-175 are pending in this Application but stand withdrawn as having been non-elected. Claims 1-28, 48, 83, and 159 have been cancelled. Once elected claims 100-139 are allowed, Applicant hereby authorizes the Examiner to cancel withdrawn claims 29-47, 49-82, 84-99, 140-158, and 160-175 in an Examiner's Amendment to place the Application in allowable condition.

A personal interview with the Examiner took place on August 24, 2004 for which Applicant and undersigned Counsel expresses thanks. The claim changes herein include the claim changes discussed during the interview. Where applicable, the substance of the May 25, 2004 interview is noted per MPEP 713.04.

The Amendment After Final Rejection dated May 26, 2004, the Advisory Action dated July 13, 2004, and certain claim changes for a Supplemental Amendment to accompany a Request For Continued Examination to be filed by August 26, 2004 were discussed during the interview.

- Support for the specification change and the claim changes in the Amendment After Final Rejection was discussed as being found in the art-accepted definition of "knowledge base" (facts and rules for problem solving) and in Figures 15 and 18 of the above-identified Application (knowledge base which is separate from the user, order, and provider information, and separate from the program code). The Examiner indicated that these changes appeared to be supported.

- The Examiner's attention was drawn to the support given in the Amendment After Final Rejection on pages 8-10 for "iterative" and "iteratively". The Examiner agreed to consider Applicant's arguments for support when a Request For Continued Examination is filed.

- The Examiner confirmed that claims 114-116, 119, 122, and 132 were considered obvious in view of the combination of Durand and Puram.

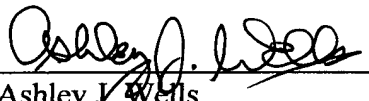
- The claim changes for a Supplemental Amendment were discussed and Counsel indicated that the changes were being made largely for formal reasons to claim Applicant's invention with more definiteness, such as by providing clear antecedent basis. The Examiner indicated that the deletions in claim 100 broadened the claim(s). This is, of course, Applicant's right since Applicant would have leave to freely amend the claims along with the filing of a Request For Continued Examination.

- The Examiner drew Counsel's attention to the various databases in Puram (see for example Figure 1c) and asked how Applicant's knowledge base was considered to be distinguishable. Counsel advised that none of the databases of Puram were considered to be knowledge bases containing facts and rules for problem solving which are separate from user, order, and provider information and separate from program code in accordance with the present invention as recited in independent claim 100 for the reasons set out in the Amendment After Final Rejection on pages 12-17. The Examiner agreed to study Applicant's reasoning.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, as well as the amendments and remarks set out in the Amendment After Final Rejection, Applicant believes that claims 100-139 should be allowed and that this case should be passed onto allowance. Should the Examiner not find the Application to be in allowable condition or should the Examiner believe that a further conference and/or additional Amendment would expedite the prosecution of the Application, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone undersigned Counsel to discuss the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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